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ULVERSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1954.

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ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR THE YEAR

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November, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population .. Census, 1951	10,076
- Registrar-General's Estimate of home population mid-1954	10,260
Number of inhabited houses	3,240
Rateable value	£67,958
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£267.16.9

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of antibiotics, electrical accessories, light engineering, dress making and fancy goods. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1954 and for the preceding five years are given on page 2.

Of the 133 births registered during 1954, 64 were males of which one was illegitimate and 69 were females.

Approximately 73% of deaths were of persons 65 years of age or over and the principal causes of death were:- Heart diseases 59, Intracranial vascular lesions 14 and malignant growths 13.

The birth and death rates have fallen to new low figures in each case.

	Live Births				Deaths (all causes)				Stillbirths				Maternal Mortality				Infant Mortality					
	Live Births				Deaths (all causes)				Stillbirths				Maternal Mortality				Infant Mortality					
	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Total		Neo Natal											
Year	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.						
1954	133	13.0	124	12.1	2	15	Nil	Nil	2	15	2	15	2	15	2	15						
1953	139	13.7	126	12.4	3	21	Nil	Nil	4	29	3	22	4	29	3	22						
1952	153	15.2	128	12.7	2	13	Nil	Nil	5	33	1	7	5	33	1	7						
1951	138	13.9	155	15.6	2	14	Nil	Nil	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	7						
1950	158	15.9	147	14.8	3	19	Nil	Nil	7	44	2	13	7	44	2	13						
1949	175	17.9	140	14.4	2	11	Nil	Nil	4	23	-	-	4	23	-	-						
Average 5 years 1949-1954	-	15.3	-	14.0	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	10						

^xAdjusted (Live Birth-Rate (comparability factor, 1.02) = 13.2 per 1,000.
(Death-Rate (comparability factor, 0.87) = 10.5 per 1,000.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 Smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	England and Wales.	160 Smaller towns. 25,000 - 50,000 population.	Ulverston Urban District.
	Birth Rate. Death Rate.	Birth Rate. Death Rate.	Birth Rate. Death Rate.
1950	15.8 11.6	16.7 11.6	16.9 13.2
1951	15.5 12.5	16.7 12.5	14.6 13.7
1952	15.3 11.3	15.5 11.2	16.0 11.2
1953	15.5 11.4	15.7 11.3	14.4 10.9
1954	15.2 11.3	15.4 11.0	13.2 10.5

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J. L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District,
Grange-over-Sands Urban District,
Ulverston Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1,
Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector:-

C. T. HAGUE, Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate, R. S. I.

Other Appointments Held:-

Engineer and Surveyor -
Ulverston Urban District Council.
Manager - Water Undertaking,
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:-

J. K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate,
Certificate R. S. I.,
Meat and other Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied by Barrow Corporation from Pennington Reservoir to the Ulverston Urban District Council's water-works at Castle Hill, Pennington. Here the water is sand-filtered before storage in a service reservoir of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons capacity. Before passing into the trunk main for distribution the water is subjected to chlorination.

During the year the supply was satisfactory in quantity.

One chemical analysis and four bacteriological analyses of the water were made during the year and all gave satisfactory results.

At the end of the year 3184 houses had a supply direct from the mains and another 40 were supplied by stand pipes. During the year 2 existing houses were newly connected to the mains, in place of stand pipes, in addition to 112 new dwellings. No change occurred in the supplies from private sources.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The first part of the new main drainage scheme was completed during the year and work on other parts of the scheme continues.

At 31st December, 1954 there were 3,200 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 3,800 water closets.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-	Houses.	Flats.
(i) By the local authority	105	Nil
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	7	Nil

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	267
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose.	688
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1. above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	Nil
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	114
4.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	50

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.

37

Action under statutory powers during the year:-

1. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs. Nil
 - (b) Number of dwelling houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:-
 - (i) By owners Nil
 - (ii) By local authority in default of owners Nil
2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
 - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 8
 - (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (i) By owners 5
 - (ii) By local authority in default of owners Nil
3. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
 - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. Nil
 - (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil
4. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936: Nil
5. Proceedings under section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936: Nil

Housing Acts, 1949-54 - Improvement grants etc.,

	Schemes of private bodies or individuals.	Schemes of local authority.
(a) Number of schemes submitted (a) by private individuals to local authority	7	-
(b) by local authority to Ministry	-	-
Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	7	-
(b) Number of Schemes finally approved	4	-
Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	4	-
Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved Schemes	1	-
(c) Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year	Nil	-

The great increase in the number of housing inspections made will be noted. This, of course, was due to the survey which is being undertaken as a preliminary to drawing up a slum clearance programme. At the end of the year it was already apparent that a large number of houses would have to be considered for demolition or improvement. Numerous houses are 100-300 years old, some built of rubble, congested and badly arranged.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Details regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector, as also are particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Four houses were disinfected by formaldehyde vapour, following tuberculosis, and clothing and bedding has been steam disinfected when necessary at Devonshire Road Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness.

Disease.	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954.		
						Number of Cases.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths
Scarlet fever.	17	15	5	11	13	12	2	0
Diphtheria.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles.	0	208	16	7	298	98	0	0
Whooping cough.	46	30	32	37	0	35	0	0
Poliomyelitis.	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Cerebral spinal fever.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery.	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Para-typhoid.	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Pneumonia.	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals.	74	253	54	57	312	147	4	0

Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1954.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
Years.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
20-	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
45-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
75 and upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.	6	7	1	0	1	1	0	0
	13		1		2		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston residents during the past twelve years.

It will be noted that there was an increase in the number of cases of respiratory tuberculosis, a proportion of these being in persons who work in Barrow and who were picked up by the Mass Radiography Unit when it visited workplaces in that County Borough.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1943	11	14	3	5	3	3	1	0
1944	9	7	5	6	1	2	1	0
1945	4	10	3	2	4	1	0	0
1946	8	2	1	2	5	1	0	0
1947	6	3	1	2	0	3	0	0
1948	1	6	1	0	4	4	0	0
1949	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1950	3	6	3	0	2	3	0	0
1951	5	5	0	3	1	0	0	1
1952	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
1953	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1954	6	7	1	0	1	1	0	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	9	13	-	-
Factories not included above in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	61	49	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above mentioned Acts during 1954.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector is appended.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector for the

Year 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We herewith submit a summary of the work relating to Public Health Administration carried out by the Department during the period 1st January to the 31st December, 1954.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

A regular weekly collection has been maintained throughout the year. Disposal of the refuse has been by controlled tipping at Tobay Lane. Treatments have been carried out to prevent infestations by rodents and insects and the tip has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

RODENT CONTROL.

Routine treatments of the sewers, sewage works, controlled tip and beck courses have been carried out.

The following is a summary of the total treatments undertaken:-

Properties.

Local Authority	17
Dwelling houses	62
Business Premises	38

HOUSING.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 came into operation on the 30th August. This act is designed to facilitate exercise of the Council's statutory responsibilities for the clearance and replacement of slum houses, the enforcement of essential repairs and the encouragement of improvements and conversions. In order to obtain a complete picture of all types of housing conditions, a full survey was started and which is now almost complete, and will provide figures of the number of houses for dealing with in one way or another during the next five years. It is also hoped to get a list of sub-standard houses which can be improved, as, lacking modern amenities now, they can and should be made into satisfactory dwelling houses for many years to come.

The Council's policy of closing houses which are unfit for habitation but where it is impossible to demolish has been continued and the following dwellings have been dealt with under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

31, 33, 35, Daltongate.
23, Canal Street.
3, Bells Yard.
57, Neville Street.
48, Brewery Street,
2, 3, Spring Gardens.

Two applications for certificate of 'disrepair' were received and both granted.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

688 inspections and re-inspections have been made following the receipt of complaints or investigation of nuisances and their subsequent abatement.

Below is a summary of the cases abated by serving formal notices:-

Insufficient or insanitary accommodation for house refuse - 4
Defective roofs - 33
Defective spouting and guttering - 7
Dampness from other causes - 8
Inadequate water supply - 4
Defective conditions of drains - 5
Defective or insanitary closets - 4
Verminous premises - 3
Miscellaneous nuisances - 12

Cases dealt with by serving Statutory Notices:-

Premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance - 8

Atmospheric Pollution.

There are seven factory chimneys in the district and smoke observations are taken at frequent intervals to time the emission of any black smoke. Contact has been maintained with the industries concerned and has been rewarded by the limited amount of atmospheric pollution and willingness to assist in this direction.

Inspection and Supervision of Food, Meat Inspection.

Centralised slaughter for Ulverston, Ulverston Rural District and Grange Urban District was carried on under Ministry of Food arrangements at the privately owned slaughterhouse in the Gill, Ulverston until control ceased in July. Following meetings between the Council and local butchers it was decided to continue using the premises as a Public Slaughterhouse and in this capacity has been well supported and appreciated.

No applications for the use of previously licenced or registered private slaughterhouses in the District have been received.

The total number of animals killed during the year is only slightly less than the two previous years although the number of pigs is far in excess of any other year. The unsatisfactory equipment for pig slaughter has been referred to in previous reports and it is hoped that more efficient and modern equipment will be installed in the near future.

Number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
1954	1203	855	5597	1323	8978
1953	1363	1107	5915	967	9352
1952	1391	1250	6521	371	9533
1951	1656	1354	4826	253	8089
1950	1558	1494	5826	82	8960

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed.	776	427	855	5597	1323
Number Inspected.	776	427	855	5597	1323

All diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcases condemned.....	1	11	126	32	2
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	33	70	-	57	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.....	4.4 %	19%	13.5%	1.6%	0.9%

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcases condemned.....	1	8	3	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	37	80	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.9%	18.2%	0.3%	-	2.2%

<u>Causes of Condemnation.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis, generalised	9	1	-	-	10
Tuberculosis, congenital	-	2	-	-	2
Anaemia, advanced	-	-	2	-	2
Bruising, extensive and severe	-	2	2	-	4
Emaciation, pathological	4	-	7	-	11
Fever	-	-	1	1	2
Immaturity	-	76	-	-	76
Jaundice	-	1	-	-	1
Mastitis, septic	1	-	-	-	1
Pleurisy, optic	1	2	-	-	3
Oedema, generalised	-	-	10	-	10
Pericarditis, septic	-	-	-	-	-
Peritonitis, septic	1	10	-	-	11
Pneumonia, septic	-	2	-	-	2
Pyæmia, including joint ill	1	22	2	-	25
Septicaemia or toxæmia	1	1	1	-	3
Swine erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-
Tumours, multiple	-	1	-	1	2
Uraemia	1	2	1	-	4
Other causes	2	7	6	-	15
	21	129	32	2	184

FOOD SHOPS AND PREMISES.

Number of food premises, by type of business, in the district at the end of the year:-

General Grocers and provision dealers - 25
 Greengrocers and fruiterers (inclusive of those selling wet fish, game etc.)
 Fishmongers (inclusive of those selling poultry, game, etc.) 3
 Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc.) 1
 Bakers and/or confectioners 15
 Fried fish shops 4
 Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream etc. 28
 Licensed premises, clubs canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, and
 similar catering establishments 75

Number of food premises, by type, registered under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>No. Registered.</u>	<u>No. of inspections of premises during the year.</u>
Manufacture and sale of pork products.....	3	26
Butchers Shops for manufacture and sale of sausage, brawn, etc.	5	35
Manufacture and/or sale of ice cream.....	27	50

All food shops and premises have been inspected at frequent intervals, some 209 visits having been made for this purpose. Some premises have continued to maintain a very high standard and their vigilance is well worth appreciating. Unfortunately there are others who require constant supervision and their attention has to be frequently drawn to the necessity of not only maintaining their present standard but also trying to improve. It is to be hoped that Regulations under the proposed Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954 may be so embracing as to cover all the necessary requirements in these establishments.

The following foodstuffs have been disposed of after being voluntarily surrendered by the owners.

Bacon, sausage and imported beef	37 lbs.
Confectionery	9 lbs.
Fruit salads	36 lbs.
Tinned meats, vegetables, etc.,	305 tins

ICE-CREAM.

Two premises are registered for the manufacture, storage and sale and 25 premises for storage and sale. The retailers mainly sell pre-packed ice cream supplied by the larger manufacturers outside the district. All premises have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, three persons are registered as Distributors and two premises registered for use as Dairies (not being Dairy Farms).

Three dealer's licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and two retail Distributor's licences to sell pasteurised milk have been issued.

10 samples of milk were obtained for bacteriological examination for cleanliness, all of which proved to be satisfactory. Four samples of milk were also submitted for biological examination and proved negative to the tubercle test.

We are, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C.T. HAGUE.
J.K. YATES.

Sanitary Inspectors.

